

Public Testimony: Transportation, Joint Meeting with the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation

March 11th, 2014, 12:30 PM

Agenda: Discussion regarding the Regional Transit Authority by Paul Hillegonds, Chair of the Regional Transit Authority

Thank you Col. Pappageorge and Chair Casperson and Committee Members:

I am wounded Colonel.

The situation is perilous. We are about to lose the 'high ground'. The Michigan State Fairgrounds is the 'high ground' that can unify the Regional Transportation System.

Never Yield Ground

General Patton said: "It is cheaper to hold what you have than to retake what you have lost." What would General U.S. Grant, whose house sits on the Fairgrounds property, say about giving up this ground?

In May of 2013, U of D Mercy hosted a transit conference that brought speakers in from around the country to answer the question; how do you get voters willing to pay for buses and trains?

Denny Zane did it in Los Angeles. Zane said it's smart to own land where you put your stations. Zane said: "It's an opportunity to build a community base around the station area. So how you develop it is very important. The new model of mixed use higher density including housing as well as commercial uses for example is a crucial part of that kind of success." L.A. and other cities have gained profits alongside private developers.

The L.A. Transit authority owns a lot of land; as do most transit authorities. Why? They are need for both operations and revenue generation.

In today's Regional Transit Authority presentation, under 'Revenue Generation' it states:

The RTA may raise revenues!!! Sources of revenue available include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

3. Proceeds from the sale, exchange, mortgage, lease, or other disposition of property acquired by the authority.

Let's go to the Fairgrounds!

Come 'see' for yourselves. Come and walk around and 'see' the future of transit in S.E. Michigan. Give this land *and* the 2 million bucks to the RTA

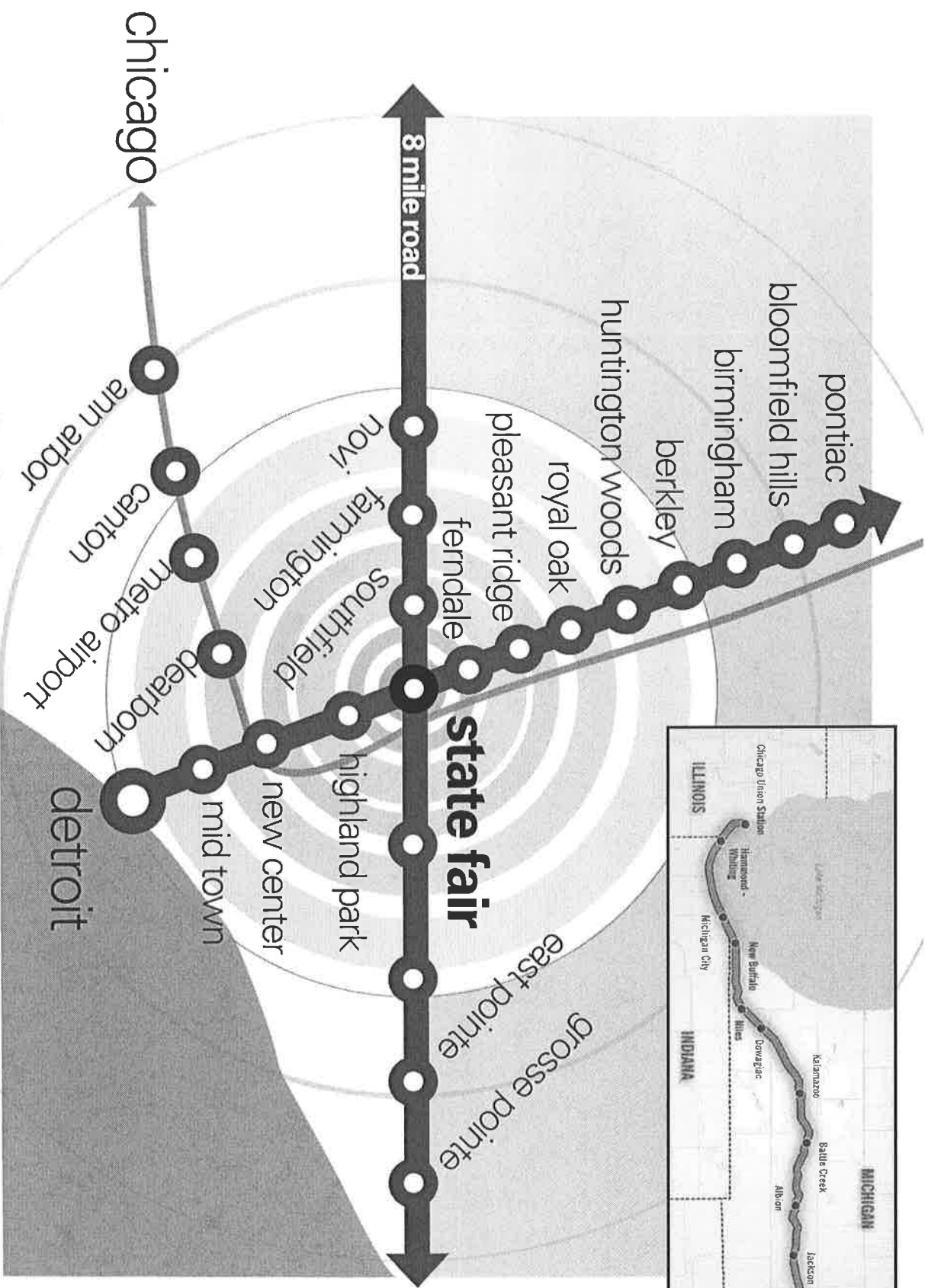
Thank you,
Jim Casha
540-717-9240
jim.casha@gmail.com

META EXPO

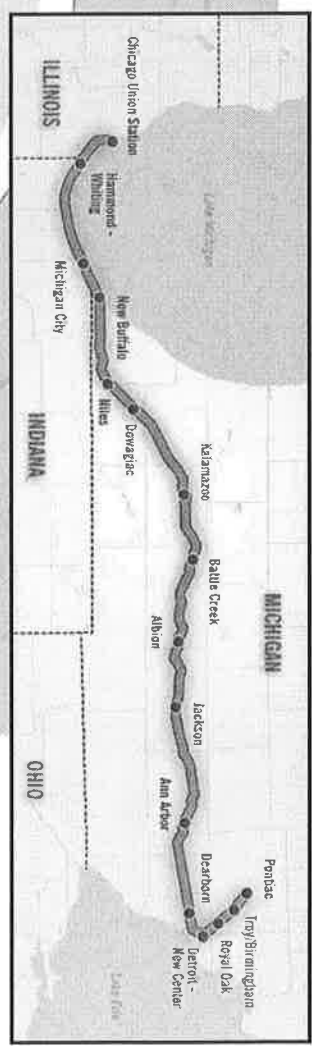
- CARS
- PEDESTRIANS
- BIKES
- BUS
- TRAIN
- LIGHT RAIL



connections



regional transit hub



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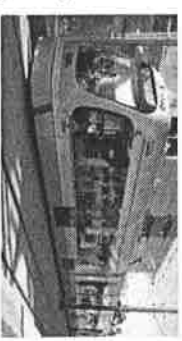
MICHIGAN
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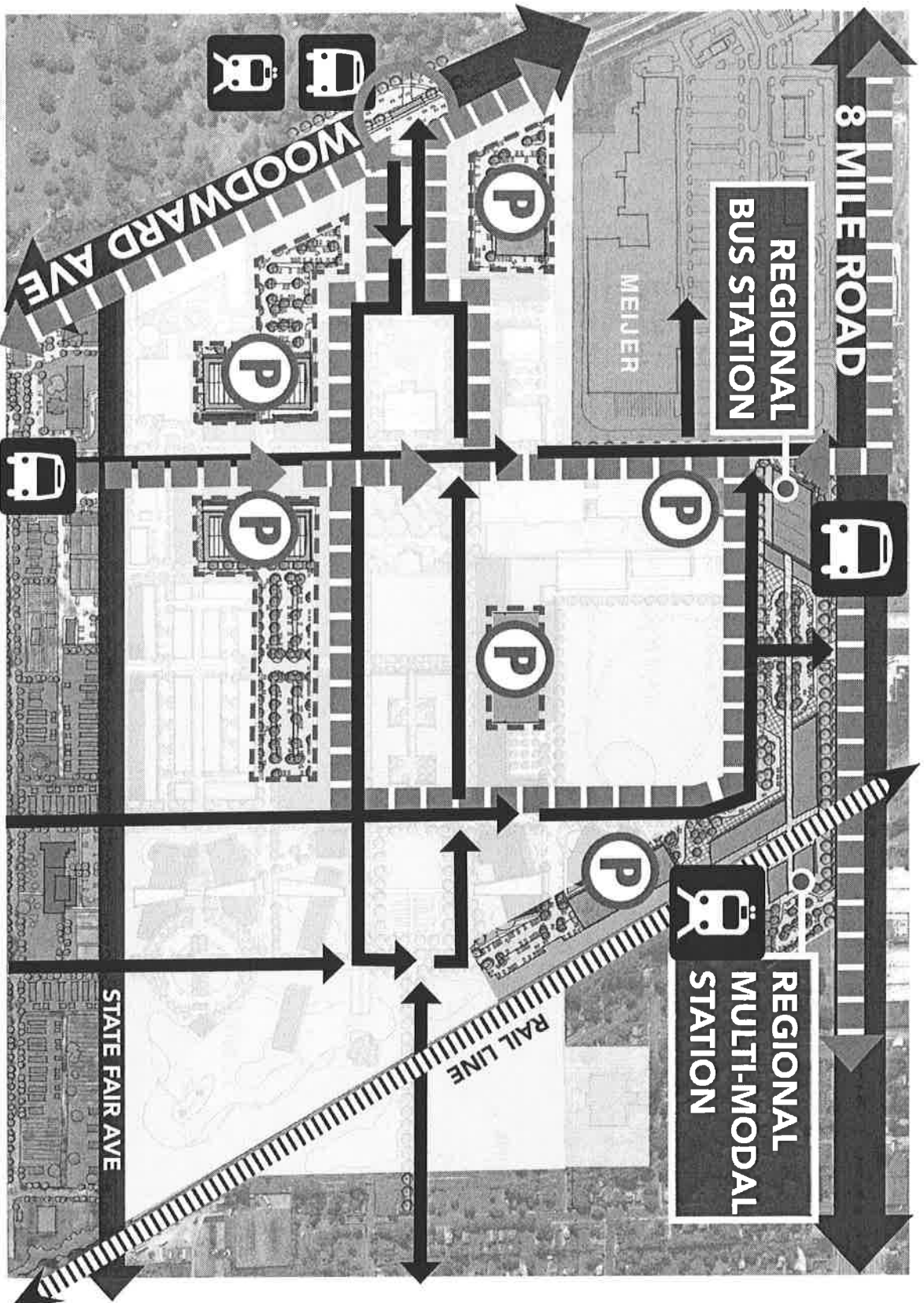
REGIONAL MULTI-MODAL STATION



BUS RAPID TRANSIT



PASSENGER TRAIN/LIGHT RAIL



regional multi-modal transit

WHAT CAN MICHIGAN SHOW THE WORLD?

RAIL LINE